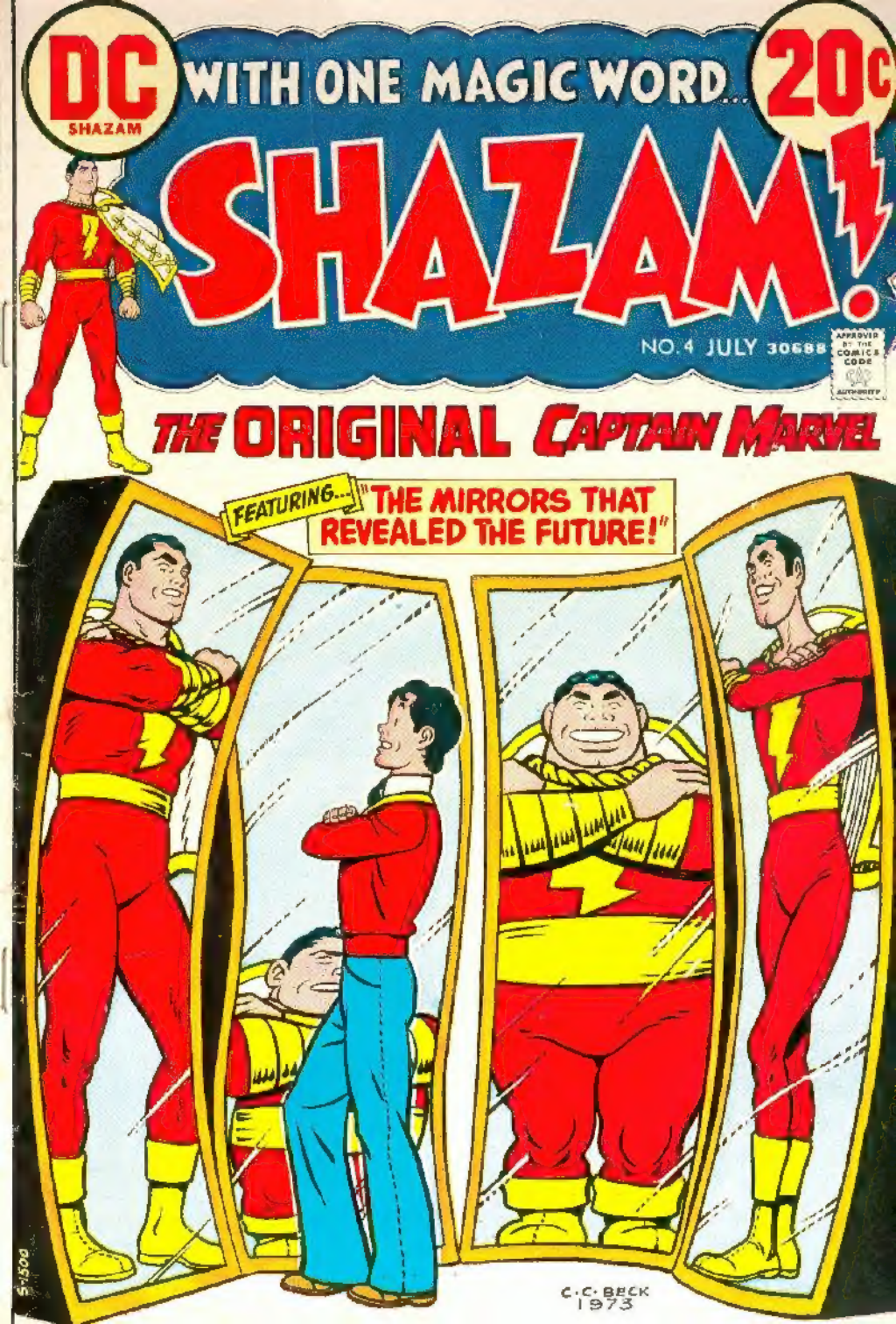

DC
SHAZAM
WITH ONE MAGIC WORD...
20c
SHAZAM!
NO. 4 JULY 30688
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL
FEATURING... "THE MIRRORS THAT REVEALED THE FUTURE!"
C.C. BECK 1973

SHAZAM!

IS THE MAGIC WORD FOR THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL

OUT OF THE PAST COMES ONE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S DEADLIEST FOES, A HATE-FILLED VILLAIN AS BAD AS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS GOOD!

GET SET FOR EXCITEMENT AS BILLY BATSON AND CAPTAIN MARVEL MEET—

"IBAC THE CURSED!"

STORY BY DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY C. C. BECK
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ

S-1489

ALL THE POWERS OF SIX GREAT GODS AND HEROES HAVE BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER AND PLACED IN THE HANDS OF BOY BROADCASTER **BILLY BATSON**! WHEN HE PRONOUNCES THE NAME OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN WIZARD, **SHAZAM**, HE BECOMES, IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING,

CAPTAIN MARVEL,
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

THEN, WHEN EVIL IS DEFEATED, CAPT. MARVEL REPEATS THE WORD AND CHANGES BACK TO BILLY. SO AMAZING AND SUDDEN IS THE CHANGE THAT MOST PEOPLE NEVER REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED!

SHAZAM!, Vol. 1, No. 4, July, 1973. Published monthly. (with the exception of Mar., May, Aug. and Dec.) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. E. Nelson Bridwell, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwartz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1973 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: P.O. Box 1047, Flushing, N.Y. 11352. Rates for fifteen 20c issues $3.00 in U.S. and Possessions; $4.00 elsewhere.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

BOY NEWSCASTER BILLY BATSON IS ON THE JOB ONCE MORE...

IT'S GOOD TO BE WORKING AGAIN! MR. MORRIS SENT ME OUT TO GET SOME MAN-ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEWS!

TELL ME, SIR--DO YOU THINK THE ST. LOUIS BROWNS WILL WIN THE PENNANT?

SONNY, THERE AREN'T ANY MORE BROWNS! THEY BECAME THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES IN 1954!

ULP! I KEEP FORGETTING THAT I WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR TWENTY YEARS!*

LOTS OF THINGS ARE DIFFERENT TODAY!

I'D BETTER WIPE OUT *THAT* INTERVIEW!

*AS TOLD IN SHAZAM! NO. 1

AHH... A WRECKING CREW AT WORK! I SHOULD GET SOME GOOD INTERVIEWS HERE!

HOLY MOLEY! THAT LITTLE GIRL WILL BE **CRUSHED!**

SHAZAM!

AS BILLY UTTERS THE MAGIC WORD, A BLINDING BOLT OF MYSTIC LIGHTNING BOOMS FROM THE SKY...

BOOM

...TRANSFORMING HIM INTO CAPTAIN MARVEL!

I'VE ONLY A HALF-SECOND TO SAVE HER!

CRASH

AH! I MADE IT IN TIME!

OH, CAPTAIN MARVEL, YOU'RE JUST WONDERFUL! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

THEY OUGHT TO MAKE YOU A GENERAL FOR THIS!

OR AT LEAST A MAJOR!

HA HA! I'M QUITE HAPPY AS A CAPTAIN, FOLKS!

LEAVING THE CROWD, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL SAYS THE MAGIC NAME...

SHAZAM!

...AND IN ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND BOOMING THUNDER RETURNS TO THE PERSON OF...

BOOM

...BILLY BATSON!

HELLO THERE, BILLY! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

MR. PRINTWHISTLE! WHEN DID YOU GET OUT OF JAIL?

TEN YEARS AGO! I'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF MY WAYS... I'VE GONE STRAIGHT!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR *THAT!* YOU USED TO BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S WORST BAD MEN!

ELSEWHERE, IN A LIMBO RESERVED FOR HISTORY'S WORST--*VERY WORST*-- BAD MEN...

CURSES! PRINTWHISTLE REALLY **HAS** REFORMED, THE SNIVELER!

DA! WE GAVE HIM POWER TO BE A SUPER-VILLAIN-- AND NOW HE'S GONE **STRAIGHT!**

I--IVAN THE TERRIBLE--GAVE HIM TERROR!

AND I-- BORGIA--GAVE HIM CUNNING!

FROM ME-- ATTILA THE HUN--HE GOT FIERCENESS!

HIS GIFT FROM ME-- CALIGULA-- WAS CRUELTY!

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS SPEAK THE NAME MADE FROM OUR INITIALS...

...AND THEN HE BECOMES **IBAC THE CURSED!**

A PERFECTLY *ROTTEN* CREATURE WHO COMBINES OUR MEANEST TRAITS!

BUT HE WON'T SAY IT!

BUT HE **MUST**! NOW THAT SHAZAM'S CHAMPION, CAPT. MARVEL, HAS RETURNED, IBAC MUST BE REACTIVATED!

LET US PROJECT OUR EVIL THOUGHTS INTO PRINTWHISTLE'S BRAIN!

THE INNOCENT STREET-SWEEPER IS OVERWHELMED BY THE GHASTLY MENTAL PROJECTIONS!

GO ON, PIG OF A PRINTWHISTLE...

SAY IT -- SPEAK THE WORD--

SAY... **IBAC!**

IBAC!

AS THE CURSED NAME IS VOICED, GREEN FLAMES FLARE AND...

IBAC!

DREADED IBAC, SWORN FOE OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, APPEARS!

UHH... WHERE AM I? WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

AGAIN MONSTROUS THOUGHTS ARE PROJECTED...

SEIZE THE BOY BILLY BATSON

BIND AND GAG HIM!

THEN DESTROY HIM!

...AND SO...

NOW, LET'S SEE... WHERE WILL I FIND SOMEONE TO INTERVIEW?

!

DANGER
KEEP OUT
CONDEMNED BUILDING

IN A FEW MINUTES, THIS BUILDING WILL BE BLOWN UP AND YOU'LL BE FINISHED, BRAT!

WITH BILLY GONE, CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL BE GONE, TOO!

NA HA HAAAAA! EVIL HAS TRIUMPHED!

IS THIS THE END? WILL CAPTAIN MARVEL, AFTER HIS RECENT RETURN TO THE WORLD, NOW BE REMOVED FROM IT FOREVER?

I'M HELPLESS! I CAN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORD!

WAIT! MY TAPE RECORDER WAS ON WHEN I LAST SAID **SHAZAM!** I'LL JUST PUSH THE REPLAY BUTTON...

CHICK

SHAZAM!

BOOM

NA HAAA! THERE GOES THE BUILDING!

BUT WHAT'S THAT LIGHTNING BOLT DOING THERE?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

NO! IT CAN'T BE...

BUT IT IS! GREETINGS, IBAC!

BLAM

GHAAA

GRRRRRRR! I'LL CRUSH YOU TO POWDER!

SMASH

TRY AGAIN, IBAC! THAT JUST TICKLED!

THE GROUND SHAKES AS THE TWO MIGHTY CHAMPIONS--ONE GOOD, THE OTHER EVIL--BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY!

HAAAAA

MMW

EOW

OOF!

SOCK BAM BAM

BAM

POW

BIFF

BUT FINALLY...

I'M GETTING FED UP NOW, IBAC! GIVE UP OR I'LL...

NEVER! I'LL NEVER SURRENDER!

THE FOOL! CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS DEFEATED HIM!

WE MUST WITHDRAW OUR CURSED POWERS!

AS THE EVIL SPIRITS WITHDRAW THEIR BALEFUL GIFTS FROM THEIR CREATURE, IBAC...

HOLY MOLEY!

ZEEEE

PRINTWHISTLE! YOU'RE BACK! YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY **IBAC!**

BELIEVE ME, CAPTAIN MARVEL, I'LL **NEVER** SAY THAT NAME AGAIN! I PROMISE!

GOOD! I BELIEVE YOU! WELL, BACK TO WORK, EH, FRIEND?

RIGHT! I'LL SEE YOU AROUND!

SHAZAM

BOOM

ONCE MORE THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL BECOMES PLAIN BILLY BATSON, BOY NEWS-CASTER...

HOLY MOLEY! I **STILL** HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY RECORDED INTERVIEWS FOR STATION WHIZ!

I'D BETTER GET ON THE BALL, OR I'LL LOSE MY JOB!

THUS ENDS THE STORY OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S ENCOUNTER WITH IBAC THE CURSED. WILL IBAC EVER RETURN? WILL THE FOUR EVIL SPIRITS WHO CREATED HIM ABANDON THEIR EFFORT TO DESTROY THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE END

SHAZAM!

BILLY, LOOK! THAT ISN'T **YOU** STANDING BESIDE ME IN THE MIRROR...

...IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL!

THAT'S STRANGE! I SEE **MYSELF**... NOT THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

WHEN THE WIZARD, SHAZAM, GAVE BILLY BATSON THE MAGIC POWER TO BECOME CAPTAIN MARVEL, BILLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT A CERTAIN *CONWAY MANN* WAS ALSO GIVEN THE STRANGE POWER TO SEE INTO...

"THE MIRRORS THAT PREDICTED THE FUTURE"

STORY BY: ELLIOT MAGGIN
ART BY: C. C. BECK
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

S-1964

IT IS BILLY BATSON'S BIRTHDAY, BUT AS HE WALKS DOWN THE STREET ON WHAT **SHOULD** BE THE HAPPIEST DAY OF THE YEAR...

FOR TWENTY YEARS TIME STOOD STILL FOR ME*... AND I DIDN'T CELEBRATE ANY BIRTHDAYS!

NOW, NOBODY EVEN REMEMBERS WHAT DAY THIS IS!

*AS REVEALED IN "THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST PLAN" IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF **SHAZAM!**

OOPS! EXCUSE ME, SIR!

WHIPLASH! I'LL BE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR MONTHS! I'LL **SUE!**

BUMP

I'M SORRY I BUMPED INTO YOU, SIR... AND I'M ALSO SORRY I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!

NO MONEY? THEN FORGET THE WHIPLASH, KID!

MY NAME IS CONWAY MANN--BUT YOU CAN CALL ME CON!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M BILLY BATSON!

LOOK---IN THAT MIRROR! A PLANE ABOUT TO CRASH!

A PLANE-CRASH? SHAZAM!

AS BILLY SAYS THE OLD WIZARD'S NAME, A BOLT OF MAGIC LIGHTNING CUTS THROUGH THE SKY, CHANGING HIM INTO...

BOOM

...CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

HOLY MOLEY! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THAT CRASHING PLANE!

UH... WHAT PLANE? I DON'T SEE ANY PLANE!

I WONDER WHAT MADE CON SAY A PLANE WAS ABOUT TO CRASH?

HOLY MOLEY! THERE IT IS NOW!

HOW DID CON SEE IT BEFORE IT APPEARED?

CAPTAIN MARVEL, WHO HAS OFTEN RESCUED MIGHTY A-R LINERS, NEEDS ONLY A SECOND OR TWO TO SET THE DISABLED LIGHT PLANE DOWN IN A VACANT LOT...

MEANWHILE...

NOW, WHERE DID THAT KID DISAPPEAR TO?.

SOME WEIRD THINGS ARE GOING ON AROUND HERE TODAY!

FIRST, I SAW A PLANE ABOUT TO CRASH IN A MIRROR... THEN THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHTNING OUT OF A CLEAR SKY...

...THEN SOME GUY IN A RED SUIT SHOWS UP...

SHAZAM!

ONCE AGAIN, MAGIC LIGHTNING CUTS THE SKY TO CHANGE CAPTAIN MARVEL BACK TO BILLY BATSON!

BOOM!

OH, THERE YOU ARE, BILLY! WHERE WERE YOU?

ER... I HAD SOMETHING TO DO, CON!

TELL ME... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT PLANE WAS GOING TO CRASH BEFORE IT EVEN APPEARED?

WHY, I SAW IT IN THAT MIRROR, DIDN'T YOU? HEY...

...NOW I SEE YOU AND ME RIDING IN MY CAR!

YOU DO?

I... I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE!

BUT ONLY WHEN I'M TOUCHING YOU, BILLY!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY PARTNER?

DOING WHAT, CON?

UH -- VARIOUS THINGS! COME ON, BILLY -- TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY...

...LET'S GO SOME-WHERE AND CELEBRATE!

WHY, IT'S MY BIRTH-DAY, TOO, CON! WHERE WILL WE GO?

IF YOU WEREN'T A KID, BILLY, WE COULD GO TO THE RACES AND CLEAN UP! WE COULD PICK THE WINNERS BEFORE THEY EVEN RUN!

BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE DISHONEST?

WELL... WE'D GIVE THE MONEY TO CHARITY, EH, KID?

SURE! THAT SOUNDS LOGICAL!

ALTHOUGH NEITHER OF THEM KNOWS IT, BILLY AND CON ARE THE SAME AGE... WOULD YOU BE-LIEVE IT? TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS CAN BE...

...LET US TAKE LEAVE OF BILLY AND HIS NEW FRIEND AND GO BACK SOME YEARS TO VISIT THE OLD WIZARD, SHAZAM...

IF THE BOY BILLY BATSON, WHO WAS BORN TODAY, REMAINS PURE OF HEART...

...ONE DAY I WILL HAVE HIM TAKE OVER MY LIFE'S MISSION... FIGHTING ALL EVIL IN THE WORLD!

APRIL 1 19

BUT ANOTHER BOY -- WHO WOULD NOT STAY PURE OF HEART -- WAS BORN IN THE SAME HOSPITAL AT THE SAME MOMENT AS BILLY! AS HE GREW UP...

STEALING AGAIN, CONWAY?

YOU'RE GONNA WIND UP IN JAIL ONE OF THESE DAYS!

ULP!

45¢

10¢

AND WHEN BILLY RECEIVED HIS MAGIC POWERS FROM OLD SHAZAM, A SPECIAL LINK CAUSED CONWAY MANN TO HAVE MAGIC POWERS ALSO... ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL MANY YEARS LATER!

BECAUSE YOU ARE PURE OF HEART, BILLY BATSON, I HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO BE MY **SUCCESSOR!**

THROUGH MY NAME, YOU ARE GIVEN THE POWERS OF THESE SIX MIGHTY HEROES!

SOLOMON WISDOM
HERCULES STRENGTH
ATLAS STAMINA
ZEUS POWER
ACHILLES COURAGE
MERCURY SPEED

AND THOUGH THEY WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY, BILLY -- BECAUSE HE WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR 20 YEARS -- NEVER GREW UP AS CON DID!

WHERE ARE WE GOING, CON?

UH -- I HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT OUT YET, BILLY! BUT BETWEEN YOU AND ME -- I GOT A FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING BIG AT STAKE!

OBOY! YOU'RE GOING TO BUY US A STEAK?

!

SPECIAL BULLETIN! THERE IS A $10,000 REWARD OUT FOR THE CAPTURE OF THE ESCAPED CONVICT, STANLEY "SNAKE" SKINNIS. SKINNIS WAS LAST SEEN DRIVING A BLACK SEDAN, LICENSE NUMBER 26798.

KID, I JUST SAW INTO THE FUTURE AGAIN!

THAT ESCAPED CONVICT IS GONNA PASS US IN A FEW **MINUTES!**

THERE HE GOES! LET'S CATCH HIM, BILLY!

CAN I HAVE CATSUP ON MY STEAK, CON? AND FRENCH FRIES?

SURE, KID -- AND PIE A LA MODE FOR DESSERT!

THE CHASE LEADS TO A NEARBY CIRCUS...

THERE HE GOES B..LY INTO THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS!

OBOY! THAT'S WHERE YOU SEE YOURSELF LOOKING FUNNY!

HOUSE OF MIRRORS

LOOK, CON! THIS MIRROR MAKES ME LOOK LIKE I WEIGH 1000 POUNDS! HA-HA!

ULP! I'M SEEING INTO THE FUTURE AGAIN!

I SAW THAT BIG GUY IN THE RED SUIT STANDING RIGHT BESIDE ME!

HOW WILL HE GET HERE?

HERE, SNAKE, TAKE DIS PLANE TICKET AN' DIS GUN AN' GET OUTA DA COUNTRY!

T'ANKS, SLIMY! YER A PAL!

SHAZAM!

BOOM!

COME ON, SKINNIS! IT'S BACK TO JAIL FOR YOU!

YIPE! IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL--DA GUY DAT PUT ME IN DA NOOSEGOIN 25 YEARS AGO!

POW

POW

YER NOT TAKIN' ME BACK! TRY CATCHIN' ME AGAIN--I USETA WORK HERE!

THE WILY CONVICT EASILY OUTDISTANCES CAPTAIN MARVEL, AND...

RUN! RUN! THE BULL-ELEPHANT IS LOOSE!

HOLY MOLEY! I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITH ALL THESE MIRRORS AROUND!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KNOCK THEM ALL DOWN!

MIRRORS

CRASH

BLAM

TINKLE TINKLE

OH, NO! SKINNIS MUST HAVE TURNED THIS THING LOOSE TO SLOW ME DOWN! WELL...

EVEN A RAMPAGING BULL-ELEPHANT IS NO MATCH FOR THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL! AFTER A BRIEF BUT FIERCE STRUGGLE...

HURRY, MEN! TIE HIM UP SO I CAN GO AFTER THAT CROOK!

HOORAY FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!

SO THAT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL? I THOUGHT HE DISAPPEARED TWENTY YEARS AGO!

DERE'S NO GETTIN' AWAY FROM DAT B.G RED CHEESE

I MIGHT AS WELL JUMP AN' END IT ALL!

AWW... WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAFTA SPOIL EVERYTHING?

THAT'S MY JOB, PAL!

TAKE HIM AWAY, OFFICER!

THANKS, CAPTAIN MARVEL! YOU'LL GET THE $10,000 REWARD MONEY NOW!

SEEING CON'S DISAPPOINTMENT, GREAT-HEARTED CAPTAIN MARVEL MAKES A GENEROUS MOVE!

I NEVER KEEP REWARD MONEY, CON! I'LL TURN IT OVER TO **YOU!**

GOSH! THANKS, CAPTAIN MARVEL!

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL GOES BEHIND A TENT AND CHANGES BACK TO BILLY ONCE MORE, THEN...

HEY, BILLY! CAPTAIN MARVEL'S GOING TO GIVE **US** THE $10,000 REWARD!

WE'RE **PARTNERS**, REMEMBER!

BILLY BATSON? I'M JOHN DINGLING, OWNER OF THIS CIRCUS. YOU'RE A FRIEND OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, I HEAR...

...WHEN YOU SEE HIM, GIVE HIM THIS BILL FOR **DAMAGES!**

ULP!

$10,000.00

AND SO, NO RICHER THAN WHEN THEY STARTED OUT, BILLY AND CON END THEIR BIRTHDAY...

SO LONG, CON-- THANKS FOR BRINGING ME HOME!

I GUESS OUR BIRTHDAY WAS PRETTY EXCITING, AFTER ALL!

IT SURE WAS, BILLY! *WAIT--* *I'M SEEING INTO THE FUTURE AGAIN! GET SET FOR A PLEASANT SURPRISE, KID!*

SURPRISE!

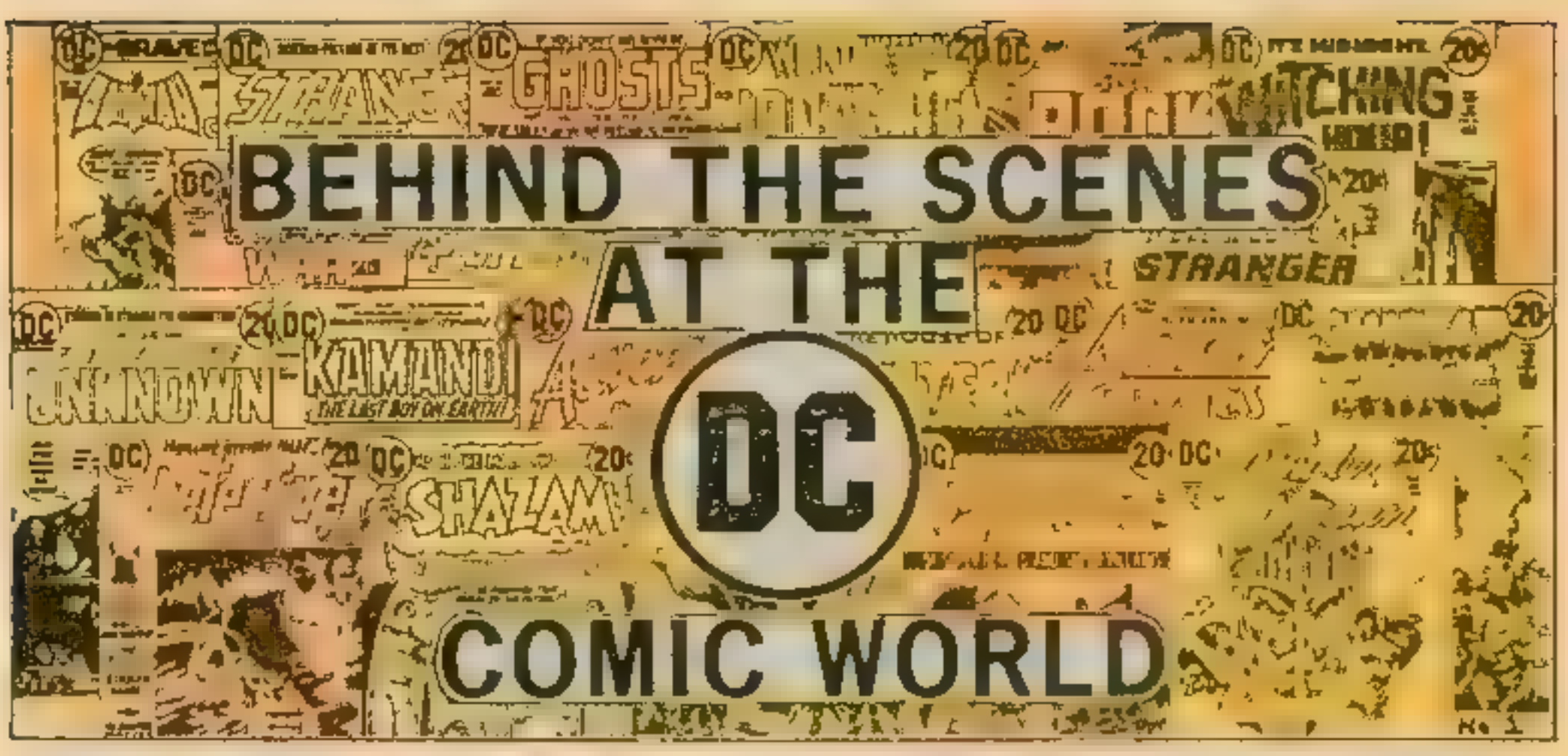
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, FOR WHEN BILLY WALKS INTO HIS HOUSE...

HOLY MOLEY! ALL MY FRIENDS ARE HERE! THIS IS THE **BEST** BIRTHDAY I'VE EVER HAD!

♫ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ♫

C·C BECK

the END



Welcome to the world of the people who create comics. On this page (and its companion feature page, Direct Currents) you will finally meet the people who produce comics, learn how they are produced, and find out about our latest projects. Direct Currents will give you an issue by issue prediction of upcoming stories and features. Both pages will be appearing in almost every DC magazine in a month or so. More about "Behind The Scenes" later. Now let's take a walk down to the Production Department for a preview of a new DC program . . .

THE JUNIOR BULLPEN PROJECT

About eight months ago, DC Production Manager Sol Harrison noticed that there weren't too many young people coming into the comics industry any more. Sol, never one to ignore an idea, worked out a program for getting new people into the business and training them at the same time.

DC is starting a program under which promising talents can enter the business as apprentices. We will be offering twelve such jobs to young people this summer. All twelve will work in our new offices (DC is moving crosstown this summer to the new Warner Communication Headquarters) and meanwhile will have their skills polished by some of the most accomplished people in the business. These will be paying jobs; the first rung on the ladder of comic success. You will be guaranteed a basic wage while you learn. Six writing trainees and six artistic trainees will be chosen.

The details: The jobs are only open to people who would be able to live in the New York Metropolitan Area. This means that no one who hasn't graduated high school by June of 1973 is eligible. Many of the lucky people will be chosen at the annual Comic Art Convention here in New York City, when DC will examine portfolios and scripts. The Convention will be held from July 4th to 8th at the Commodore Hotel. Even if you can't make the program, the convention with all its pro guests is certainly well worth attending. (For convention details write: Comicon, c/o National Periodical Publications.) Interested artists or writers will submit portfolios of their work at that time. A writer should submit a number of his best plots, synopses, or full scripts. I advise you to keep away from full scripts unless you are familiar with their format. Artists should prepare a number of pencil or ink renditions of human figures. We are most interested in seeing a sketch pad filled with drawings (rough) of the world around you—People (all ages), places, your home, your family, your desk top, the world outside your window, etc. If you wish to use super-heroes or established characters, that's okay. But keep to the human figure for the most part because that is the most important part of comic book art. Your artwork will be evaluated at the convention by a number of DC staffers and editors. Artists, for instance, might be judged by Carmine Infantino, Joe Orlando, Joe Kubert, and Vince Colletta. Writers would have their work examined by people like Julie Schwartz, Bob Kanigher, and Murray Boltinofff. All the work will be looked over during the course of the convention and we may hire people on the spot. Shortly thereafter you will begin to work at DC.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE OF A LIFETIME! If you have ever dreamed about working in the comic book field, get your material ready and come to the convention. See you there! Of course, if you can't make it to the Comicon, just send your material to Sol Harrison here at National. If you have already done this, and haven't received an answer, please be patient. Sol has a lot of material to look over.

Back to "Behind The Scenes" again. In future months you'll learn: How we created "The Shadow", "Plop" and a half-dozen other new DC books that will begin to appear in the next year. What our editors and senior staffers are really like. When to watch our mags for special issues or stories. Who is working on new projects. (Like a certain Joe Simon, creator of a galaxy of comic book characters, who is back at DC and cooking up about four new magazines!) What's happening to the junior bullpen project. And, answers to YOUR QUESTIONS! If you have any questions about DC comics that might interest other fans, write. We can't answer letters personally, but any that are of general interest will be answered in print. Send them to: "Behind The Scenes", National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022. See you next time!

SHAZAM!

PRESENTS A GOLDEN AGE CLASSIC Featuring

"THE OWNERLESS DIAMOND!"

I'M A NERVOUS WRECK GUARDING THIS DIAMOND! **NOBODY** SEEMS TO OWN IT, BUT EVERYBODY SEEMS TO **WANT** IT!

BANG! BANG!

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES #[illegible]
COPYRIGHT © 1949 BY FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

[illegible] BOY NEWSCASTER OF STAY ON WHIZ, BILLY BAXTER CONSTANTLY [illegible] PEOPLE SUCH AS THE [illegible], NOTED SCIENTIST!

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE WORKING ON SOME NEW DISCOVERY, PROFESSOR! MAY I ASK WHAT IT IS?

NO, YOU MAY NOT!

FOR ONCE, BILLY IS REPULSED

DON'T BOTHER ME! EVERYBODY IS TOO SNOOPY!

ULP!

SLAM!

DOGGONE! HE SURE WAS RUDE! AREN'T SOME PEOPLE DISGUSTING?

HOLY MOLEY ! WHAT WAS THAT I KICKED OUT OF MY WAY ? IT WASN'T A STONE, AS I THOUGHT...

.. IT'S . A DIAMOND ! HOLY MOLEY ! HOW IN THE WORLD COULD SOMEONE LOSE A THING THIS BIG AND VALUABLE ?

IT MUST BE WORTH MILLIONS !

WOW ! I'LL NAB DAT DIAMOND FROM DA KID !

BEAT IT, KID !

A CROOK ! SHAZAM !

MAGIC LIGHTNING ANSWERS THE MYSTIC NAME AND IN PLACE OF BILLY THERE APPEARS THE GREAT CAPTAIN MARVEL!

BAM

OFFICER ! GOT A COZY CELL FOR THIS THIEVING GENT ?

BOP !

I'D BETTER NOT CHANGE BACK TO BILLY !. I'LL HAVE TO KEEP GUARD OVER THIS DIAMOND TILL I FIND ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER ! NOBODY NEARBY CLAIMED IT, SO ITS OWNER MUST NOT BE AROUND !

BUT WAIT ! HOW DO I KNOW ITS GENUINE ? MAYBE IT'S AN IMITATION AND WORTHLESS ! I MIGHT BE GETTING EXCITED OVER NOTHING !

SAM SKOWL
JEWEL DEALER

5.

IT'S GENUINE ! AND FLAWLESS ! WHY, IT'S WORTH MILLIONS !

BUT A DIAMOND SO BIG MUST BE **FAMOUS** !

THIS CHART OF ALL VALUABLE DIAMONDS LISTS THE KOHINOOR DIAMOND--- HOPE DIAMOND---AND ALL THOSE OTHER FAMOUS ONES ! BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF **THIS** ONE!

HOLY MOLEY ! WHAT A MYSTERY !

FAMOUS DIAMONDS
KOHINOOR
HOPE
BLUE DREAM
SULTAN
STAR of INDIA

LATER, AT STATION WHIZ...

HELLO, FOLKS ! THIS IS CAPTAIN MARVEL BROADCASTING IN PLACE OF BILLY BATSON FOR A SPECIAL REASON ! A GIANT DIAMOND HAS BEEN FOUND ! WILL THE OWNER PLEASE CALL AT STATION WHIZ TO CLAIM IT ?

THAT'LL DO IT ! THE OWNER MUST BE FRANTIC BY NOW ! SOMEBODY WILL TELL HIM ABOUT THE BROADCAST AND HE'LL COME FOR HIS DIAMOND ! AND WILL I BE **RELIEVED** !

BUT THREE DAYS LATER ...

HOLY MOLEY ! NOBODY CAME TO CLAIM IT AT ALL ! DOESN'T THE OWNER **CARE** ? IS HE **DEAD** ? OR WHAT ? I WON'T BE AT EASE UNTIL I GET THIS DOGGONE THING OFF MY HANDS!

BUT AT LAST ...

I AM PIERPONT J. VAN DYKE ! PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT CALLING SOONER FOR MY DIAMOND !

OH BOY ! AM I HAPPY TO SEE YOU !

WAIT, SIR ! HAVE YOU ANY PAPERS TO PROVE YOUR OWNERSHIP ?

PAPERS ? WHY---UH--- UH----! LOOK ! A FIRE !

HEH, HEH ! NOW THE DIAMOND'S MINE !

FIRE ? WHERE ? I DON'T SEE ANY FIRE !

THERE ISN'T... HOLY MOLEY! THE DIAMOND'S GONE! THAT FELLOW WAS A CROOK! OH WELL, HE'LL BE EASY TO CATCH ON THE STREET!

BLPS! CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL NAB ME! GOT TO SIDETRACK HIM! I'LL FLING THE DIAMOND INTO THAT COAL TRUCK!

HOLY MOLEY!

HAVE TO LET THAT CROOK GO! CAN'T LET THAT DIAMOND GET LOST!

NOW I'VE GOT IT BACK ON MY HANDS! IT'S HAUNTING ME! WHEN WILL THE RIGHTFUL OWNER SHOW UP?

MEANWHILE, THE FALSE PIERPONT J. VAN DYKE REVEALS HIMSELF AS NONE OTHER THAN SAM SKOWL, THE SCHEMING JEWEL DEALER!

I ALMOST GOT IT! WITH THAT PRICELESS DIAMOND, I COULD RETIRE FOR LIFE WITH A HUGE FORTUNE! I'VE GOT TO HAVE IT!

BUT I CAN USE A NEW DISGUISE! AND NEXT TIME, I'LL PRESENT THIS **FORGED** DEED OF OWNERSHIP TO FOOL CAPTAIN MARVEL!

SOON... I AM CHAUNCEY SPINWHEEL, THE RAILROAD MAGNATE! I HAVE THE DEED FOR MY DIAMOND! I HAVE SO **MANY** JEWELS I HARDLY NOTICED THIS ONE WAS MISSING TILL NOW!

HMMM! ALL LEGAL AND EVERYTHING!

YAYYY! I'M RID OF IT! GUARDING THAT THING WAS TURNING ME INTO A NERVOUS WRECK! I'M FREE!

SNAP

CK!

ER — I'D BETTER BUY A NEWSPAPER AND WRAP THE DIAMOND IN IT, SO IT ISN'T SO — UH — CONSPICUOUS!

AM I SEEIN' THINGS?

WHAT A JOOL! I'LL TAKE IT, PAL!

NO, YOU WON'T, YOU CROOK!

HEY! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

OOPS! THE DIAMOND — THERE IT GOES!

A COP! GOTTA RUN!

ULPS! ME, TOO!

WHAT'S THIS?

I HAD TO RUN BECAUSE MY DISGUISE WAS RUINED DURING THE SCUFFLE! THE COP WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED ME! BLAST IT! I STILL DIDN'T GET THAT DIAMOND!

MEANWHILE...

STATE

THIS IS THE DIAMOND THAT CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS GUARDING! THE NEWS IS ALL OVER TOWN! I'LL RETURN IT TO HIM!

AND SO...

CROOKS ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH IT!

NO! NO! NO! IS THAT THING BACK AGAIN?

BUT IT'S A GOOD THING IT'S BACK! NO CHAUNCEY SPINWHEEL'S LISTED IN THIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY! SO HE WAS A CROOK, TOO!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

BUT NOW IT'S BACK! WHY DON'T I JUST **DESTROY** IT? I COULD CRUSH THE DOGGONE THING IN MY TWO HANDS, AND...

NO! THAT WAS A MAD, IF PLEASANT, THOUGHT! WHERE'S THE TRUE OWNER? WHO LOST IT? SAY, HOW ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE SPOT WHERE IT WAS FOUND?

HERE'S THE SPOT! DID IT COME FROM A NEARBY BUILDING? HMMM... THE **NEAREST** PLACE IS THAT OF **PROFESSOR BRIGHT!**

INSIDE THE PROFESSOR'S LAB...

PROFESSOR! BY ANY CHANCE IS THIS DIAMOND **YOURS?**

EH? WHY, YES, IT'S MINE!

BUT SAM SKOWL HAS BEEN FOLLOWING AND NOW, IN DESPERATION...

I'LL EVEN COMMIT MURDER FOR THAT DIAMOND!

GOT TO STOP THE BULLETS--- ***WHEW!***

BANG! BANG!

ULPS!

EVEN BULLETS CANNOT HARM THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL!

I'LL RUN AND---**GULP!** *WHAT'S THIS? WHY, THE DIAMOND* ***BURST TO BITS*** *IN MY HAND!*

POOF

OF COURSE IT BURST TO BITS! IT WAS ONLY **SYNTHETIC!** I THREW IT OUT THE OTHER DAY BECAUSE I KNEW ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE WAS WRONG AND THAT IT WOULD BURST! SEE? ALL MY SYNTHETIC JEWELS ARE **NO GOOD! PAH!**

POP!

SO YOU WERE AFTER ONLY A WORTHLESS SYNTHETIC DIAMOND, SAM SKOWL! SERVES YOU RIGHT! AS FOR ME, IF I NEVER SEE ANOTHER DIAMOND, IT WILL BE TOO SOON!

THE END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 19TH